

2014 Media Development Fund General Competition

The U.S. Embassy invites independent media outlets – including print, radio, TV, or electronic media to submit project proposals to the Media Development Fund. The fund supports the development of free and independent media in Ukraine and provides financial grant support to Ukrainian journalists, media organizations, and other non-governmental organizations for media-related projects.

Major Program Requirements

The media outlet must be independent, non-governmental. Ukrainian state, regional or local government media as well as political party media outlets are not eligible to apply. Universities may partner with a non-governmental organization for a media project. Funding is also available to individual journalists and staff from all Ukrainian media outlets (organizations), private or state. Non-governmental organizations may seek funding if their proposals directly support the development of Ukrainian media.

The Fund does not support advertising in newspapers or paid publications; NGO informational leaflets; specialized publications covering narrow professional issues; and projects aimed at promoting partisan politics.

The maximum amount of a grant awarded for any one project is \$24,000. The actual amount of a grant awarded depends on the scope of activities and the duration the project, which may range from one month to a year. The Media Development Fund encourages cost-sharing and recommends that organizations also seek additional funding from other sources.

General Competition Project Themes

The Media Development Fund's priorities include:

1. Bolster the quality of Ukrainian journalism education by:
 - Providing training to journalism students on ethics and standards, monitoring, socially-responsible journalism, the media industry, cooperation with civil society members, etc.
 - Supporting student internships in leading national and regional media outlets
 - Encouraging inter-regional student exchange
 - Opening and upgrading radio and TV training studios at schools of journalism
 - Supporting the creation of online and interactive educational “tool kits” for students and reporters
2. Raise the professional standards of Ukrainian journalists by:

- Training journalists new to the profession (one to three years on the job)
 - Awarding group and individual travel grants for journalists and editors to attend conferences, seminars and participate in internships abroad
 - Encouraging projects that strengthen investigative, analytical, and other reporting skills
3. Provide a favorable environment for the development of Ukrainian media by:
- Promoting freedom of expression and monitoring the violations of journalists' rights, especially on the regional level
 - Educating editors and staff of media outlets about laws and regulations that underscore the free and transparent practice of journalism
 - Incorporating new technologies in the media environment, e.g., using Internet as an information tool, which includes, developing or upgrading websites as part of a bigger project
4. Encourage Media-NGO-Government cooperation by:
- Supporting dialogue and open communication between media, NGO, and government through holding joint seminars, working meetings, and round-tables
 - Conducting training for the staff of government press agencies
 - Encouraging inter-regional media cooperation and partnerships

There is no fixed deadline – this is an open-ended competition.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FUND

Send project proposals marked “Media Development Fund General Competition” electronically to the address: KyivMDF@state.gov

In all correspondence, please refer to the “MDF General Competition.”

Application forms with instructions are available at:

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/media-fund.html>

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please use ZIP in case you need to archive your documents. Otherwise send them as separate attachments.

Applicants are encouraged to review the information on the U.S. Embassy Media Development Fund Grants Program prior to submitting their proposals.

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